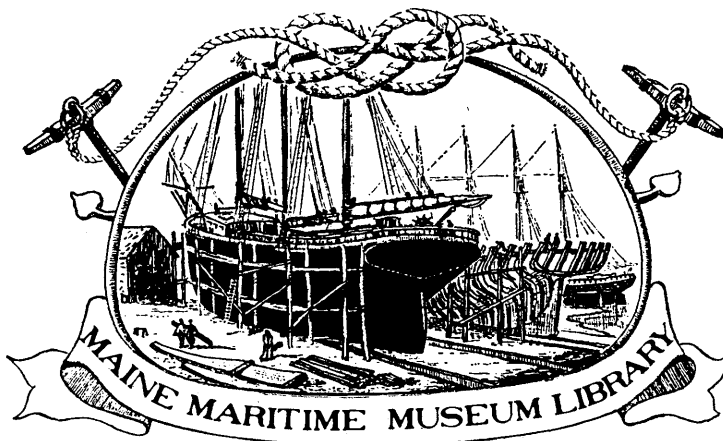


**Maine Maritime Museum Library**

243 Washington Street  
Bath, Maine 04530-1638  
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**Inventory for  
Manuscript Collection  
MS-82**

**Maine Maritime Museum Library  
Lobstering Reference Collection**

by  
J. Drusilla Carter

August 2005

Shelf feet: 5.5  
Number of boxes: 12

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## **Abstract**

### **Maine Maritime Museum Library**

Lobstering reference collection

12 boxes (5.5 shelf feet)

Papers and publications relating to lobstering, lobsters, lobster boats, and the lobster industry in Maine. Some items also relate to lobstering in Canada and other countries. The majority of the items in this collection relate to lobstering in the twentieth century. Series one consists of newspaper clippings relating to lobstering, lobsters, lobster boats, and the lobster industry, arranged chronologically. Series two consists of copies of Maine laws and legislation relating to the lobster industry, arranged chronologically. Series three consists of oral history interviews with lobstermen and others involved in the lobster industry. Series four consists of research and reports relating to lobstering, lobsters, lobster boats, and the lobster industry. Series five contains miscellaneous items relating to lobstering and lobsters.

Open collection created by the museum and being added to continuously. Items relating to the Canadian lobster industry, G94.26. Many items in the collection are not accessioned.

Finding aid in repository; folder level control

Added entries: Canada-commerce; Fishery law and legislation; Lobster boats; Lobster culture; Lobster fisheries; Lobster industry; Lobstermen; Lobsters; Maine.

## **Acquisition**

This collection is an open collection created by the Maine Maritime Museum; as such, the materials in the collection were acquired from many different sources.

Reports and publications relating to Canadian lobstering legislation were acquired from Kenneth Martin in 1994. These items are identified by the accession number G94. 26.

## **Restrictions**

There are no restrictions on the use of this collection.

## **Physical Condition**

The majority of items in this collection are in good condition. Some of the newspaper clippings and publications are yellowed, especially around the edges, but all are clearly legible.

## Historical Note

The lobstering industry is an integral part of Maine's history. European settlers arriving with the Popham Colony in 1607 first caught lobsters by scooping them up with gaff hooks, and lobster smacks (boats) were developed by 1820. The commercial lobster fishery began in the 1820s. Lath traps were invented in 1830. From the 1840s to 1895 canning lobster was a major industry in Maine, until the advent of new size restrictions.

Lobster boats began as small dories, some with sails, and developed into modern power boats with radar, hydraulic trap haulers and electronic depth finders. These new technologies revolutionized the fishery. New materials for buoys and traps have also been developed since World War II. Lobster boat racing in boats with powerful engines is an annual event in parts of Maine, but some lobstermen still row dories to their traps.

The occupation of lobstering is often passed down from generation to generation, with children acting as sternmen for their parents before acquiring their own boat and traps. It is said that newcomers to the fishery may experience hazing when they begin lobstering in an established community.

Lobsters were once so common that legend has servants and peasants protesting the amount of lobster they were fed, and demanding not to eat it more than three times a week. As lobsters have become less common, they have become a delicacy around the world. In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, lobstering changed from a subsistence-type fishery to a well-paying business, supporting many lobstermen as middle-class citizens. In Europe lobster is now a popular holiday food. Maine produces more lobsters than any other state. Economically, lobstering is the most important fishery in the state.

The lobster Down East is ubiquitous  
Though its appearance is highly iniquitous  
Its meat and its juices  
Have very fine uses:  
And the flavor's sublime not ridiculous!  
-Willan C. Roux (attr)

## Scope and Content Note

Series one of this collection consists of newspaper clippings relating to lobstering, lobsters, lobster boats, and the lobster industry, arranged chronologically. This series includes obituaries of lobstermen and reports on legislation relating to the lobster industry.

Series two consists of copies of Maine laws and legislation relating to the lobster industry, arranged chronologically. This series also includes two reports which summarize such legislation.

Series three consists of oral history interviews with lobstermen and others involved in the lobster industry, arranged chronologically and then by last name of the interviewee. Most of the transcripts are from the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History at the Maine Folklife Center in Orono, Maine.

Series four of this collection consists of research and reports relating to lobstering, lobsters, lobster boats, and the lobster industry. Box one contains research, notes, and articles on various aspects of the lobster industry and lobsters. Box two contains information on the Canadian lobster industry. Box three contains publications and reports on the lobstering industry in Maine. Box four contains research, notes, and articles on lobster boats, as well as notes and information from two exhibits on lobsters and lobstering.

Series five contains miscellaneous items relating to lobstering and lobsters.

### **Container List**

#### **Series 1: Newspaper clippings**

**Box 1:**

- Folder 1:      undated  
          2:      1988 and prior  
          3:      1989  
          4:      1990  
          5:      1991  
          6:      1992  
          7:      1993  
          8:      1994  
          9:      1995

**Box 2:**

- Folder 1:      1996  
          2:      1997  
          3:      1998  
          4:      1999  
          5:      2000  
          6:      2001  
          7:      2002  
          8:      2003  
          9:      2004  
         10:      2005

#### **Series 2: Legislation**

**Box 3:**

- Folder 1:      report, *A Summary of Maine Lobster Laws and Regulations*, 1820-1992,  
                    Kevin H. Kelly

- 2: typescript, *Maine Laws Affecting the Lobstering Industry*
- 3: Maine lobster laws, 1825
- 4: Maine lobster laws, 1828
- 5: Maine lobster laws, 1868
- 6: Maine lobster laws, 1869
- 7: Maine lobster laws, 1872
- 8: Maine lobster laws, 1874
- 9: Maine lobster laws, 1875
- 10: Maine lobster laws, 1877
- 11: Maine lobster laws, 1879
- 12: Maine lobster laws, 1883
- 13: Maine lobster laws, 1885
- 14: Maine lobster laws, 1887
- 15: Maine lobster laws, 1889
- 16: Maine lobster laws, 1891
- 17: Maine lobster laws, 1893
- 18: Maine lobster laws, 1895
- 19: Maine lobster laws, 1897
- 20: Maine lobster laws, 1899
- 21: Maine lobster laws, 1901
- 22: Maine lobster laws, 1903
- 23: Maine lobster laws, 1907
- 24: Maine lobster laws, 1909
- 25: Maine lobster laws, 1911
- 26: Maine lobster laws, 1913
- 27: Maine lobster laws, 1915
- 28: Maine lobster laws, 1917
- 29: Maine lobster laws, 1919
- 30: Maine lobster laws, 1921
- 31: Maine lobster laws, 1923
- 32: Maine lobster laws, 1925
- 33: Maine lobster laws, 1929
- 34: Maine lobster laws, 1931
- 35: Maine lobster laws, 1932
- 36: Maine lobster laws, 1933
- 37: Maine lobster laws, 1935
- 38: Maine lobster laws, 1937
- 39: Maine lobster laws, 1939
- 40: Maine lobster laws, 1941
- 41: Maine lobster laws, 1942
- 42: Maine lobster laws, 1943
- 43: Maine lobster laws, 1949
- 44: Maine lobster laws, 1951

Box 4:

- Folder 1: Maine lobster laws, 1957
- 2: Maine lobster laws, 1961
- 3: Maine lobster laws, 1963
- 4: Maine lobster laws, 1965
- 5: Maine lobster laws, 1967
- 6: Maine lobster laws, 1969
- 7: Maine lobster laws, 1971
- 8: Maine lobster laws, 1973
- 9: Maine lobster laws, 1975
- 10: Maine lobster laws, 1977
- 11: Maine lobster laws, 1979
- 12: Maine lobster laws, 1981
- 13: Maine lobster laws, 1983

**Series 3:**  
**Oral history interviews**

Box 5:

- Folder 1: interviews with local characters, Blue Hill, S. Blue Hill, Long Island by Barbara Gray, spring 1967
- 2: interviews with locals, Southwest Harbor, by Andrea Memmelaar, spring 1967
- 3: interview, Chester Lenfesty, Ansel Crowley, Walter Cirone, by Brenda Lynne Cirone, spring 1969
- 4: interview, Edward Holmes, Harold Noddin, Frank Dunbar, by Jay McCloskey, 1971
- 5: interview, Ossie Beal, Beal's Island, by Lynn Franklin, 1972
- 6: interview, Guy Carver, Jr., Beal's Island, by Lynn Franklin, 1972
- 7: interview, Charles Dodge, Friendship, by David Littleton-Taylor, 1972
- 8: interview, Edgar Drisko, New Harbor, by Lynn Franklin, 1972
- 9: interview, Herbert Elwell, Spruce Head, by Lynn Franklin, 1972?
- 10: interview, Andrew Gove, Stonington, by Lynn Franklin, 1972
- 11: interview, Harold Gower, Beal's Island, by Lynn Franklin, 1972
- 12: interview, Gooden Grant, Isle Au Haut, by Lynn Franklin, 1972
- 13: interview, Freddie Lenfesty, Jonesport, by Lynn Franklin, 1972
- 14: interview, Edwin Lawson, West Tremont, by Rita Swidrowski, 1972
- 15: interview, Sherwood Cook, Ernest Maloney, Holace Chadwick, Tenant's Harbor/Port Clyde by Jayne Lello, 1973

Box 6:

- Folder 1: interview, Frank Dyer, by Rebecca Elwell, 1973
- 2: interview, Gooden Grant, Stonington, by David Littleton-Taylor, 1973
- 3: interview, Joseph A. Horr, Portland, by Faith Rawding, 1973
- 4: interview, Farrell Lenfesty, Beal's Island, by Lynn Franklin, 1973

- 5: interview, Dan McLain, Round Pond, by David Littleton-Taylor, 1973
- 6: interview, Theodore McLain, Bremen, by Lynn Franklin, 1973
- 7: interview, Phillip Raynes, Camden, by David Littleton-Taylor, 1973
- 8: interview, Sidney Sprague, Rockland, by David Littleton-Taylor, 1973
- 9: interview, Sidney N. Sprague, Rockland, by David Littleton-Taylor, 1973
- 10: interview, Dale Torrey, Winter Harbor, by Mark LaFond, 1973
- 11: interview, Alton Urguhart, Ellsworth, by Mary O'Meara, 1973
- 12: interview, Henry Walls, Vinalhaven Island, by David Littleton-Taylor, 1973

Box 7:

- Folder 1: interview, Lyman "Gus" Alley, Kittery, by David Littleton-Taylor, 1974
- 2: interview, Ralph Alley, Beal's Island, by David Littleton-Taylor, 1974
- 3: interview, Joe Charczynski, Beal's Island, by David Littleton-Taylor, 1974
- 4: interview, Edgar Drisko, New Harbor, by David Littleton-Taylor, 1974
- 5: interview, Andy Gove, Stonington, by David Littleton-Taylor, 1974
- 6: interview, Stillman Griffin, Kennebunk, by David Littleton-Taylor, 1974
- 7: interview, Avery Kelly, Jonesport, by Lynn Franklin, 1974
- 8: interview, Clifton Lunt, Frenchboro, Long Island, by Lynn Franklin, 1974
- 9: interview, Ernest Maloney, Port Clyde, by David Littleton-Taylor, 1974
- 10: interview, Al Roberts, Friendship, by David Littleton-Taylor, 1974
- 11: interview, Sherm Stanley, Monhegan Island, by David Littleton-Taylor, 1974
- 12: interview, Tim Staples, Swan's Island, by David Littleton-Taylor, 1974
- 13: interview, Jim Thomas, Boothbay Harbor, by Lynn Franklin, 1974
- 14: interview, Keith Ames, Matinicus Island, by Lynn Franklin, 1975?
- 15: interview, Lloyd Cushing, Nathan Brackett, Portland, by Lynn Franklin, 1975?
- 16: interview, Wilbert Gove, Stonington, by Lynn Franklin, 1975?
- 17: interview, Royal Lowell, Parnell, by Lynn Franklin, 1975?
- 18: interview, Harold Rinnemore, Islesford/Waterville, by David Littleton-Taylor, 1975?
- 19: interview, Kenneth Weed, Lincolnville, by Lynn Franklin, 1975?
- 20: interview, Walter Drinkwater, Graffam Island, by Cinda Peterson, 1977
- 21: interview, Barry Thomas, Cecil "Mort" Long, East Blue Hill/ Mount Desert Island, by Anna Milam, 1978
- 22: interview, Geraldine Wotton, Ruben Chase, Archie ?, New Harbor, by Nancy Tongue, 1979?
- 23: interview, Eugene Alexander, Orr's Island, by Suzanne Kort, 1980
- 24: interview, Edmund "Rip" Black, Bailey's Island, by Jim Pasman, 1980
- 25: interview, Harold Francis Ulrichson, Freeport, by Sheba Veghte, 1980
- 26: interview, Orren Ames, Thomaston, by Michael Chaney, 1981
- 27: interview, Mike McConchie, by Nathan Lipfert and Ken Martin, 1985



**Series 4:**  
**Research and reports**

Box 8:

- Folder 1: lobster research – canning industry  
2: lobster research – charts  
3: lobster research – cookery  
4: lobster research- historic lobstering  
5: lobster research – lobster migration and tagging  
6: lobster research – natural history of the lobster  
7: lobster research – people and places  
8: lobster research – size limits, licensing, law enforcement, Maine Lobstermen's Association, trap limits  
9: lobster research – history of lobster fishery; proposed doom  
10: lobster research – sustainable yield, hatchery rearing  
11: lobster research – traps, bait, and buoys

Box 9:

- Folder 1: Canadian lobster research – natural history 1978-1989  
2: Canadian lobster legislation – research and reports 1974-1985  
3: report, *Policy for Canada's Atlantic Fisheries in the 1980s: A Discussion Paper*  
4: report, *The Lobster Fishery of the Maritime Provinces: Economic Effects of Regulations*

Box 10:

- Folder 1: report, *Saving the Fishermen as Well as the Fish: Conservation and Commercial Rivalry in Maine's Lobster Industry 1872-1933*, Richard Judd  
2: thesis, *Marketing Maine Lobsters*, Robert Witherill, 1953  
3: thesis, *An Investigation of New England Lobster Boats and Sport Fishermen*, Robert Stevens and Richard Thorpe Jr., 1955  
4: report, *A Study of Fishermen's Response to Government Management of the District 4A Lobster Fishery*, 1984  
5: lobster and crab license list, 1984  
6: report, *Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources: Study on Biological and Economic Analysis of Lobster Fishery Policy in Maine*, 1986  
7: magazine, *Labor's Heritage* vol 2 no 1, January 1990  
8: publication, *Maine Lobstermen's Association: The First 50 Years*, 2004

Box 11:

- Folder 1: lobster boats – boat building  
2: lobster boat races – program guides, poster, calendar, 1995-2001  
3: lobster boats – research and reports  
4: Olive Pierce photo script

- 5: lobster research – curator’s notes
- 6: lobstering exhibit at Maine Maritime Museum

**Series 5:  
Miscellaneous**

Box 12:

- Folder 1: article on lobster coop in Belize; “Pooling Forces on a Belizean Caye,”  
*Americas*, Vol. 45, #6, Nov/Dec 1993
- 2: protests against lobstering – PETA flyer, 1998

**Additional Resources**

Additional information about lobstering can be found in *Lobstering and the Maine Coast*, by Kenneth R. Martin and Nathan R. Lipfert (Bath: Maine Maritime Museum, 1985). This book is in the library’s collections and contains a full bibliography.

There are also a number of websites that provide information on lobsters and lobstering. Among these are The Lobsterman’s Page, <http://www.crewdog.net/lobsterpage/index.shtml>, which gives information on lobstering as well as pictures of a lobster boat and gear. Information on the natural history and biology of the lobster can be found at The Lobster Conservancy, <http://www.lobsters.org>.